

Message Text

SECRET

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12

ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NEA-07 SR-02 ORM-01 INR-05 CIAE-00

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P R 170002Z MAY 75

FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 347

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMCONSUL JERSUALEM

USMISSION GENEVA

S E C R E T USUN 1647

LIMDIS

NOFORN

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: SREF, UNRWA, XF, SA

SUBJECT: SYG'S UNRWA APPEAL TO SAUDI ARABIA

REF: USUN 1630

1. UNRWA NY LIAISON OFFICE DIRECTOR VAN WIJK HAS IN STRICT
CONFIDENCE PASSED US COPY OF SYG'S LETTER TO
KING KHALED (REFTEL) APPEALING FOR SAUDI ARABIAN HELP IN
ALLEVIATING UNRWA'S FINANCIAL CRISIS. LETTER WAS DISPATCHED
TO RIYADH
BY SAUDI ARABIAN MISSION.

2. TEXT FOLLOWS OF LETTER FROM WALDHEIM TO KING KHALED DATED
MAY 9:

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QUOTE

YOUR MAJESTY,
IN MY DISCUSSIONS WITH HIS LATE MAJESTY KING FEISAL,
ON THE OCCASION OF MY VISIT TO YOUR COUNTRY LAST FEBRUARY
I TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY OF BRINGING TO HIS MAJESTY'S NOTICE
THE THREAT TO THE EDUCATION OF THE CHILDREN OF THE PALESTINE
REFUGEE THAT WAS PRESENTED BY THE FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES
OF UNRWA, THE ORGANIZATION ESTABLISHED BY THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO CARE FOR THE REFUGEES.
THIS MATTER WAS UPPERMOST IN MY MIND AT THE TIME, AND I
WAS ENCOURAGED TO FIND THAT THE LATE KING FEISAL SHARED
MY CONCERN THAT THE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION SHOULD NOT BE
INTERRUPTED. HIS MAJESTY GAVE INSTRUCTIONS TO THE ACTING
MINISTER OF STATE TO LOOK INTO THE MATTER IN ORDER TO SEE
HOW SAUDI ARABIA MIGHT BE OF ASSISTANCE.

I UNDER STAND FROM THE COMMISSIONER GENERAL OF UNRWA,
SIR JOHN RENNIE, THAT HE WAS RECEIVED IN AUDIENCE BY YOUR
MAJESTY ON 26 APRIL TO PRESENT HIS CONDOLENCES ON THE DEATH
OF KING FEISAL AND THAT HE MENTIONED THE CONVERSATION TO
WHICH I HAVE REFERRED. SIR JOHN COULD NOT, OF COURSE, ON
SUCH AN OCCASION ACQUAINT YOUR MAJESTY IN ANY DETAIL WITH
THE GRAVE PROBLEM THAT CONFRONTS HIM AND ON WHICH HE REPORTED
TO ME WHEN WE MET IN GENEVA ON 6 MAY.

UNRWA'S EXPENDITURE FOR 1975 IS NOW ESTIMATED AT ABOUT
\$125 MILLION BUT THERE IS STILL A DEFICIT OF ABOUT \$30 MILLION
AFTER TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS
MADE SO FAR. IF THIS DEFICIT IS NOT ELIMINATED,
UNRWA CANNOT MAINTAIN ITS SERVICES TO THE REFUGEES
IN FULL, AND VERY DRASTIC REDUCTIONS WILL HAVE TO BE
MADE FOR THE SECOND HALF OF 1975. THESE REDUCTIONS
WILL SEVERELY REDUCE THE BASIC RATION OF FOODSTUFFS
PROVIDED FOR ABOUT 825,000 CHILDREN IN UNRWA/UNESCO SCHOOLS.
THE CONSEQUENCES CAN ONLY BE FURTHER HARDSHIP, PREJUDICE
TO THE CHILDREN'S FUTURE AND AN AGGRAVATION OF THE TURMOIL
AND INSTABILITY WHICH THE MIDDLE EAST ALREADY EXPERIENCES
AS A RESULT OF FAILURE TO SOLVE THE FUNDAMENTAL POLITICAL
PROBLEM IN WHICH THE PALESTINIANS ARE SUCH AN IMPORTANT
ELEMENT.

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THE PROVISION OF THESE SERVICES HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY
THE UNITED NATIONS AS A RESPONSIBILITY UNDERTAKEN ON BE-
HALF OF THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, AND AT THE LAST
SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY THE MANDATE OF UNRWA WAS
RENEWED FOR A FURTHER THREE YEARS FROM 1 JULY 1975. APART
FROM THE OBLIGATION ON ALL MEMBER STATES OF THE UNITED
NATIONS AND ESPECIALLY ON THOSE WHICH VOTED FOR EXTENSION

OF THE MANDATE TO SUPPORT UNRWA'S PROGRAMMES FINANCIALLY
TO THE FULLEST EXTENT THEIR RESOURCES PERMIT, I BELIEVE
IT IS VITAL THAT THERE SHOULD BE TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF
SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT FROM ARAB STATES, AS MEMBERS OF
THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY WHO ARE AMONG THOSE IN THE BEST
POSITION TO COMPREHEND THE NEED, SO AS TO LEAVE NO ROOM
FOR DOUBT ABOUT THE IMPH>D\$T#NU_QJRB FE.*5@0
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